

**IN THE CLAIMS**

This is a complete and current listing of the claims, marked with status identifiers in parentheses. The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

1. (Currently Amended) A method for selecting a potential participant ~~(8a-f)~~ for a medical study on the basis of a selection criterion ~~(2)~~, ~~in which method~~ the method comprising:

— electronically storing patient data (6a-f) assigned to a patient ~~(8a-f)~~ are electronically stored;

— assigning a secondary criterion (32) ~~is assigned~~ to the selection criterion; ~~(2)~~;

— electronically evaluating the patient data (6a-f) ~~are electronically evaluated~~ on the basis of the secondary criterion ~~(32)~~; and;

determining, based on this the electronic evaluation, a measure (16) ~~for fulfilling the selection criterion (2)~~ is determined for the patient ~~(8a-f)~~ associated with the patient data; and (6a-f);

— selecting the patient (8a-f) ~~is selected as~~ a potential participant ~~(8a-f)~~ on the basis of ~~this the~~ determined measure (16).

2. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, ~~in which~~

~~wherein~~ the secondary criterion (32) ~~is assigned~~ to the selection criterion ~~(2)~~ in accordance with known medical correlations (34a-d,g).

3. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 1 ~~or 2, in which~~ wherein

— the secondary criterion (32) is assigned to the selection criterion (2) in accordance with linguistically employed medical terms ~~(34f)~~, and

— the patient data (6a-f) are evaluated on the basis of the secondary criterion ~~(32)~~ with a classification algorithm.

4. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in ~~one of the preceding claims, in which~~ claim 1, wherein

— the secondary criterion (32) is assigned to the selection criterion (2) in accordance with nonmedical correlations ~~(48)~~ concerning the medical study.

5. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein

~~one of the preceding claims, in which~~

— a probability value of 100% or 0% is determined as the measure ~~(16)~~, and

— the patient selected as a potential participant (8a-f) is selected as an actual participant ~~(8a-f)~~ or is rejected.

6. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein ~~one of claims 1 through 4, in which~~

— a probability value except 100% and 0% is determined as the measure (16),

— for the patient (8a-f) selected as a potential participant ~~(8a-f)~~, a measure ~~(16)~~ with a probability value of 100% or 0% is determined on the basis of other than the stored patient data ~~(6a-f)~~, and

— the patient (8a-f) selected as a potential participant ~~(8a-f)~~ is selected as an actual participant ~~(8a-f)~~ or is rejected.

7. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in ~~one of the preceding claims, in which~~ claim 1, wherein

—\_\_unstructured medical documents assigned to a patient ~~(8a-f)~~ are digitalized and stored as patient data ~~(6a-f)~~.

8. (New) The method as claimed in claim 2, wherein the secondary criterion is assigned to the selection criterion in accordance with linguistically employed medical terms, and

the patient data are evaluated on the basis of the secondary criterion with a classification algorithm.

9. (New) The method as claimed in claim 2, wherein the secondary criterion is assigned to the selection criterion in accordance with nonmedical correlations concerning the medical study.

10. (New) The method as claimed in claim 3, wherein the secondary criterion is assigned to the selection criterion in accordance with nonmedical correlations concerning the medical study.

11. (New) The method as claimed in claim 8, wherein the secondary criterion is assigned to the selection criterion in accordance with nonmedical correlations concerning the medical study.

12. (New) The method as claimed in claim 2, wherein a probability value except 100% and 0% is determined as the measure,

for the patient selected as a potential participant, a measure with a probability value of 100% or 0% is determined on the basis of other than the stored patient data, and

the patient selected as a potential participant is selected as an actual participant or is rejected.

13. (New) The method as claimed in claim 3, wherein

a probability value except 100% and 0% is determined as the measure,

for the patient selected as a potential participant, a measure with a probability value of 100% or 0% is determined on the basis of other than the stored patient data, and

the patient selected as a potential participant is selected as an actual participant or is rejected.

14. (New) The method as claimed in claim 4, wherein a probability value except 100% and 0% is determined as the measure,

for the patient selected as a potential participant, a measure with a probability value of 100% or 0% is determined on the basis of other than the stored patient data, and

the patient selected as a potential participant is selected as an actual participant or is rejected.

15. (New) The method as claimed in claim 2, wherein unstructured medical documents assigned to a patient are digitalized and stored as patient data.

16. (New) The method as claimed in claim 3, wherein unstructured medical documents assigned to a patient are digitalized and stored as patient data.

17. (New) The method as claimed in claim 4, wherein unstructured medical documents assigned to a patient are digitalized and stored as patient data.